

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of a Communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the matter referenced above. In that Communication, the examiner indicated that the proposed drawing correction filed on October 20, 2003 with respect to FIG. 1 has not been approved since the changes have not been shown in red and numerals 2 and 8 should be separated in order to make it clear that they do not form the numeral 28. With respect to FIG. 3, the proposed correction has not been approved since the lead line for numeral for 9a is not directed to the cross edges indicated on page 7, line 25.

Please find transmitted herewith photostatic copies of sheets illustrating FIGS. 1 and 3. The proposed corrections are indicated in red. All other bases for objection, it is submitted, have been obviated.

The examiner has rejected Claims 26-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Various bases for rejection were pointed out beginning near the middle of page 2 of the Communication and continuing on to page 3.

In response, Applicant hereby amends Claims 26-27, 45 and 47. The other claims in the case have, without prejudice, been canceled. It is submitted that all of the bases for rejection of the claims have been obviated in view of the amendments hereby filed.

In view of the action taken by this document, it is sincerely believed that all bases for rejection of the application have been overcome. Allowance of the application and passing of the case for issuance of formal allowance documents are, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to
Deposit Account No. 14-0620.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurent MARCQ

By his attorney

Date

May 10, 2004

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ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWING

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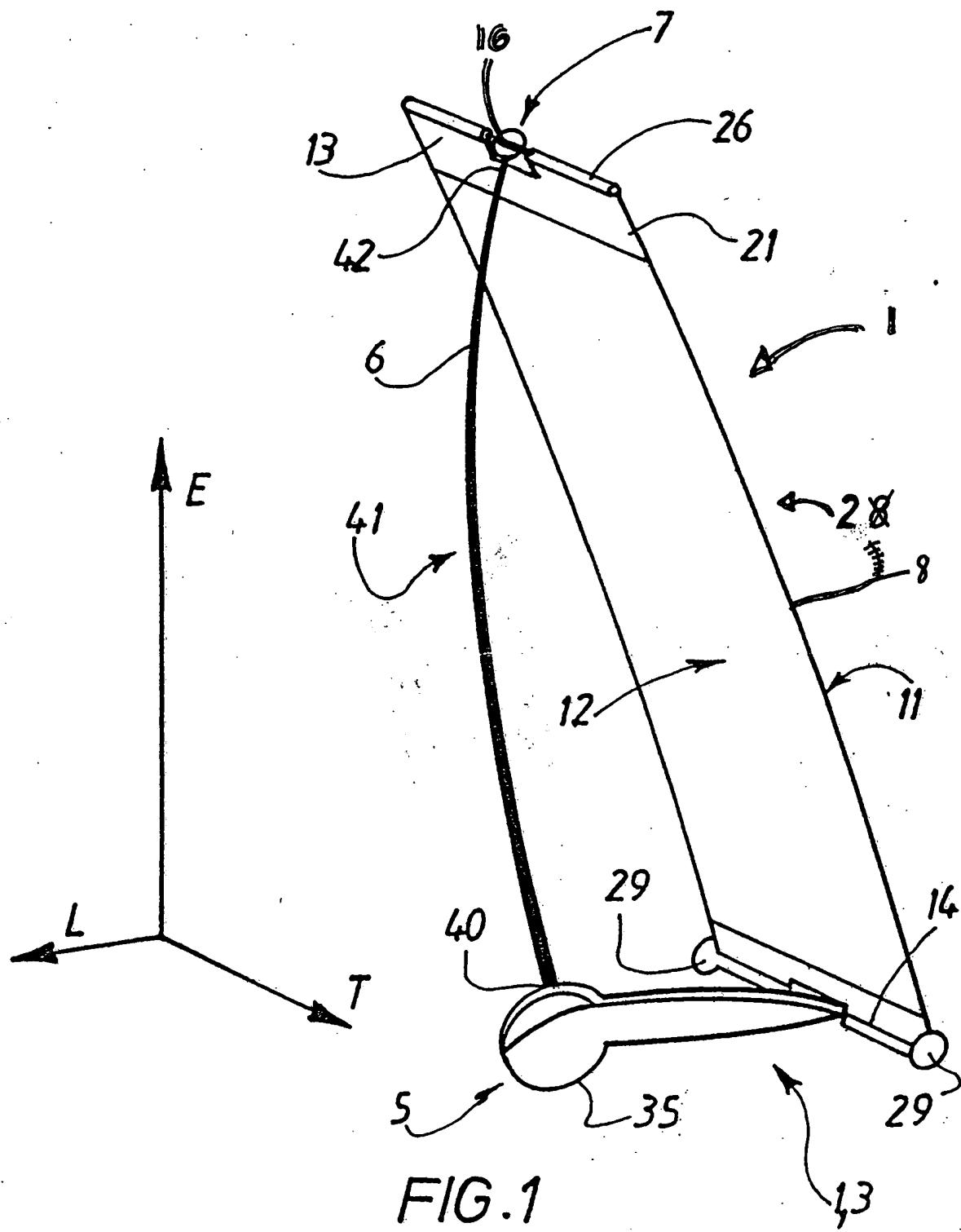


FIG. 1



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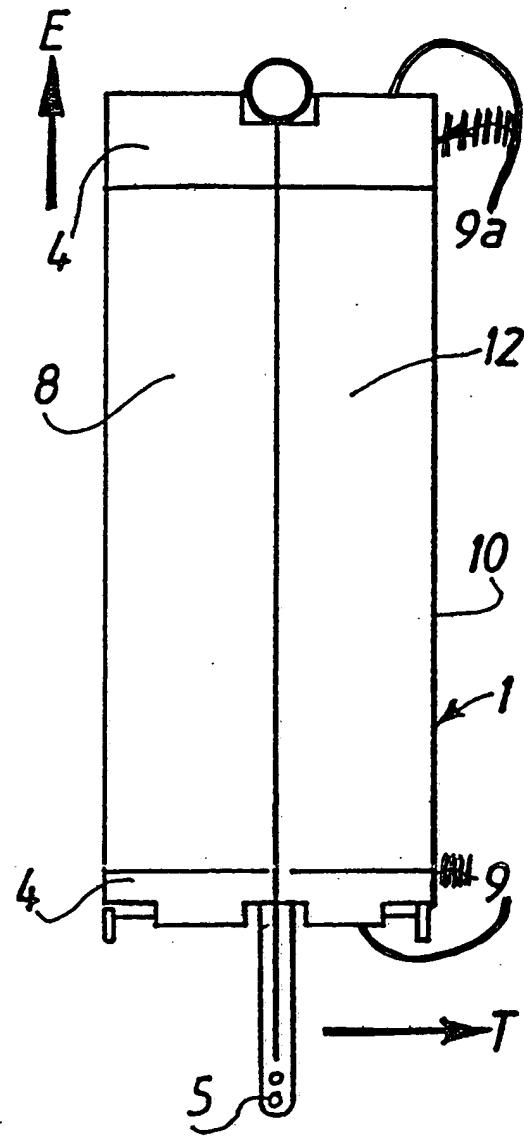
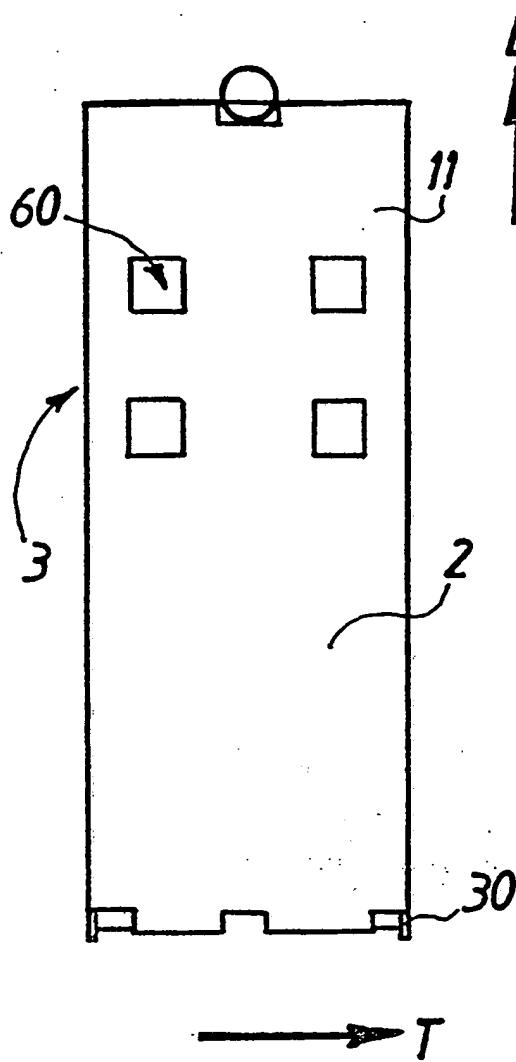


FIG. 2

FIG. 3

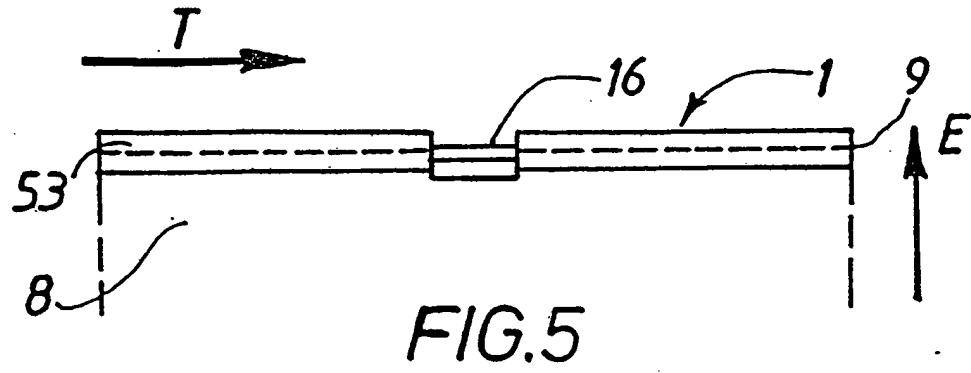


FIG. 5